

construction of Pueblo Dam, the largest component of the Fry-Ark Project, remains one of the most memorable events in the history of southern Colorado.

Those of us in the West know that the development and responsible management of water is critical to people, to agriculture, to business and to the future. The Southeastern District has worked day in and day out for over five decades to ensure that the project's purpose is fulfilled. They work tirelessly in partnership with the people of the Arkansas Valley, with their Federal partner, the Bureau of Reclamation, and adroitly navigate the rules and regulations of Colorado water law to serve the people who depend on this water.

I commend the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District for its diligence, and I commend the many distinguished people of the Arkansas Valley who have guided the district during its first 50 years as members of its board of directors. They established a tradition of vision, leadership, and distinction that will serve the people of southeastern Colorado well into their next 50 years.●

RECOGNIZING MIKE GEISEN

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate Mike Geisen for winning the National Teacher of the Year Award. The National Teacher of the Year Program was founded in 1952 by the Council of Chief State School Officers. By rewarding teachers who have affected their students and communities positively, the program focuses public attention on some of the philosophies, methods, and wisdom behind successful teaching. It has been delightful to learn of Mike's contributions, and I am thrilled that he will be traveling around the world to share his insights as Teacher of the Year.

Mike Geisen teaches seventh grade science at Crook County Middle School in Prineville, OR, but his colleagues and students would call that an understatement. Crook County Middle School principal Rocky Miner observed that before Mike assumed chairmanship of the school's science department, students' science test scores had stagnated, with about 55 percent of students meeting or exceeding State standards. Less than 2 years after Mike took the job, 72 percent of Crook County students were meeting or exceeding State standards.

It is clear that other educators have noticed Mike's successes and are starting to seek his advice. In October of last year, Oregon State superintendent Susan Castillo presented him with the Oregon Teacher of the Year Award. A month later, Mike spoke at the Oregon School Boards Association Conference in Portland about the need for schools to shift their attention to skills—such as collaboration, innovation, and adaptability that are more relevant in a globalized economy.

There is no question that Mike can teach and that he can raise test scores, but his focus is not directed at the statistical indications of success as a teacher. In his application for the National Teacher award, Mike wrote the following about America's youth: "These young people are our equals. They are not simply numbers, conglomerations of hormones, or future products. All the latest programs, fads, and statistics are meaningless to a child who isn't cared for on a deeper level. Whether you are a teacher or parent, businessperson or retired, young or old: reach deep down into each child with humor, love, and compassion and they will learn from you. They will learn much more than just how to read and write; they will learn they are wonderfully human."

Mike Geisen, or Mr. G, I thank you for your unique contributions. You are truly an inspiration to us all. As Henry Brooks Adams once remarked, "A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops." Mr. G, your influence will no doubt continue for generations.●

HONORING LOUISIANA HONORAIR

● Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, today I acknowledge and honor a very special group, the Louisiana HonorAir. Louisiana HonorAir is a not-for-profit group that flies as many as 200 World War II veterans a year up to Washington, DC, free of charge. On May 3, 2008, a group of 95 veterans will reach Washington as part of this very special program.

I want to take a moment to thank all the brave veterans visiting our Capital City this trip:

Eldon L. Adams; Pat W. Aertker; Kent L. Babb; Luca Barbato; Brant Barnett; Lennie J. Benoit; Nesby J. Bergeron; Warren J. Bourgeois; Edward Breaux; Norman A. Briggs; Lloyd O. Bruchhaus; Edward G. Burleigh; Ralph D. Caillier; Norman W. Cameron; Robert T. Casanova; Viel P. Caswell; Reece J. Chenevert; Albert L. Clifton; William L. Clifton; Vincent C. Cuccio.

Thomas C. Darbonne; Charles W. Derbes, Sr.; Charles R. Doucet; Lloyd J. Doucet; Walter H. Duhon; Andrew V. Fontenot; Joseph F. Fontenot; James R. Gibson; Ernest J. Glavaz; Raphael I. Guidry; Clyde L. Hahn, Sr.; Marion T. Harmon; Didier J. Hebert, Jr.; Osburn Hebert; Herbert J. Hernandez; Richard M. Hollier; Hubert J. Hulin; Isaac Huval, Sr.; Edward B. Jennings; Norvell C. Johniken.

Raymond Kidder, Jr.; Ruth M. Kilgore; Percy J. Lalonde; John G. Lambousy; Isaac W. Lantz; Antoine C. LeBlance; Emile J. LeBlanc; Viealy J. Leger; Joseph H. LeGrand; Daniel J. Lejeune; Lionel Lejeune; James R. LeMaire; Bernard Libersat, Jr.; James C. Martien, Jr.; Robert McDaniel; Humer L. Miller; Eugene O. Munson; Francis Myers; James R. Odom.

Theodore R. Poynter; Joseph R. Prejean; Jack M. Proffitt; David R. Pulver; Johnny M. Rabalais; Aldon J. Richard; Erman L. Richard; Winslow Richard; Roy J. Roberie; Arthur L. Rozas; Eddie E. Salassi; Joseph San Filippo; LeeRoy J. Savoie; Lawrence Schambaugh; Clanice J. Schexnyder; Gordon L. Sibille; Ellis Soileau; Louis Soileau; Wallace R. Stelly; Nolan J. Stephens.

Harold L. Stevens; Joe P. Stevens; George Stout; Clarence Tauzin, Sr.; George J. Tellifero; Edward A. Thistewaite; Dallas E. Thomason; Michelle Trahan; Idolphus C. Turnley, Jr.; Harris J. Veillon; Charles C. Verzwylt; Dudley Vice; Stanley R. Wall; Edward R. Williams; Charles C. Willoughby; Richard G. Wilson.

While visiting Washington, DC, these veterans will tour Arlington National Cemetery, the Iwo Jima Memorial, the Vietnam Memorial, the Korean Memorial, and the World War II Memorial. This program provides many veterans with their only opportunity to see the great memorials dedicated to their service.

Thus, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these great Americans and thanking them for their devotion and service to our Nation. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:16 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 3196. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 20 Sussex Street in Port Jervis, New York, as the "E. Arthur Gray Post Office Building".

H.R. 3468. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1704 Weeksville Road in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, as the "Dr. Clifford Bell Jones, Sr. Post Office".

H.R. 3532. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5815 McLeod Street in Lula, Georgia, as the "Private Johnathan Millican Lula Post Office".

H.R. 3720. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 424 Clay Avenue in Waco, Texas, as the "Army PFC Juan Alonso Covarrubias Post Office Building".

H.R. 3803. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3100 Cashwell Drive in Goldsboro, North Carolina, as the "John Henry Wooten, Sr. Post Office Building".

H.R. 3936. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 116 Helen Highway in Cleveland, Georgia, as the "Sgt. Jason Harkins Post Office Building".